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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT The Army and the Beria Case

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DATE DISTR. 25 Feb 1954

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The role played by Marshal Konev in the Beria case shows that Malenkov has relied on the army: first, to decapitate in Jun 1953 the formidable police-political apparatus set up by Beria; and second, to prevent any resultant internal disturbance. It should be noted that General of the Army Moskalenko, commander of the Moscow Region, was one of Konev's judge-assessors. Now, this general assumed his command at the very moment when Beria was arrested. That is to say, he is a man on whom Malenkov definitely can rely.
2. The choice of the new vice presidents indicates the Soviet eagerness to appeal, more and more, to the class of non-political technical men. Malenkov, in agreement with the Army, wants to de-politicize the regime and get rid of sectarians. Furthermore, reliance on the technical men will help persuade the population that the men in power are trying, primarily, to improve the standard of living of the laboring masses.

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